



# MINUTES

Kane County Resource Committee  
76 North Main Street  
Kanab, Utah 84741  
**March 20, 2019**

April 17, 2019

## Resource Development Meeting

9:00 AM	Call to Order	Commissioner Gant
	Pledge of Allegiance	Commissioner Gant
	Prayer	Jim Matson

**Attendees:** Andy Gant, Commissioner; Lamont Smith, Commissioner; Shannon McBride, Kane County Planner; Ade' Nelson, Assistant Planner; Wendy Allan, Administrative Assistant; Byard Kershaw, KC Resource Committee; Pam Hill, KC Resource Committee; Bart Battista, KC Resource Committee; Jim Matson, KC Resource Committee; Tony Chelewski, KC Resource Committee; Charlie Saba, KC Resource Committee; Lou Pratt, KC GIS; David Vincelette, USDA-Forest Service NKRDC; Camille Taylor, KC Tourism Office; Vicki Tyler, BLM Interim Monument Director; Whit Bunting, BLM Field Office; Shea Owens, PLPCO; Henrie Walton, Senator Romney's Office

Introductions were made around the room.

Shannon updated information regarding Kane County Resource and Mary's departure.

**Whit Bunting, BLM Kanab Field Office:** Habitat projects-Yellow Jacket Crisp Spring Phase was completed recently, by the Coral Pink State Park. The Burnt Cedar Point project by the Glendale Bench is about two weeks out.

Biological analysis in conjunction with Fish and Wildfire service is just now finished.

The BLM meets with Alton Coal weekly. They have been working on an air quality plan and a plan of operations.

Met with the East Zion Initiative project yesterday regarding trails. We are working with Kelly Stowell on a statement of work to start the NEPA process. The trail heads will be located on private land. There may need to be some kind of right of way work, deed or transfer to show some long term security for the trail heads. The trails will be on federal land.

Andy would like to meet with Whit and discuss the habitat restoration and the challenge Bert is having with culverts being plugged, primarily on the east bench. Whit indicated he has talked with Bert about that. Some of the problem may be from project design.

Skutumpah vegetation project was appealed and we are working through that process.

**Vicki Tyler, BLM Monument Interim Director:** They are still working through monument planning process. They are currently going through internal comments. Second draft is expected by end of May with county and state consistency. The final date is the end of November.

Vicki is the district sage grouse specialist. Any project with vegetation treatment in it is being repealed.

Kanab Creek-There was no stay filed. They can move forward with treatment.

Vicki suggest we look at the SUWA webpage. There is peer reviewed white paper research on pinion and juniper. They feel that the removal of PJ is not effective.

Vicki asked that the Utah Watershed Areas be put on the next agenda for presentation and discussion. It is a locally driven effort. There are 17 signatures on MOU. There are two spots for local government. In the past those spots have not been filled. It is a huge task. In the spring it is a two week long review. It allows the county to have a say in where the money goes. You would represent all counties not just Kane County.

Please support us in the decisions that are made.

**Whit Bunting:** We have been in communication with Gil Miller. Vicki brought up the defer time. These groups do not want grazing. We have some situations where treatment has occurred and grazing did not deter as asked. We need the county and PLPCO involved in the discussion with the grazers. We cannot defend them when they are not following the directive given.

**Shannon:** Do you have something like a red tag or ticket to stop grazing in these situations?

**Whit:** Grazers sign a grazing agreement. We hope that will remind them of their commitment. It becomes a trespass issue. There is a process but it is not an immediate process.

**Vicki:** It takes a community to make things happen. We need to be on the same page and work together in order to defend against the environmental groups.

**Commissioner Gant:** Local law enforcement can help with enforcement.

**Shea:** Enforcement can occur under the local nuisance laws.

**Vicki:** Develop your NEPA to a level that you can respond to the quick changes in priorities in the funding pool.

I will send Shannon the PJ Article and an economic analysis done for the Five Counties area on the benefits of bed projects.

**Jim Matson:** What do we need to focus on for funding?

**Vicki:** Money is coming through President Trump's priorities: migration initiative, sage grouse, fire and fuels, and local community type benefits. We are seeing a great recreation demand. This particular initiative is wild life sponsored. On the state level there is 2M for water development, specifically dealing with livestock and water distribution. There also state money for fire and fuel, and water quality.

**Henrie Walton, Senator Romney's Office:** Legislation introduced in the senate in the last couple of weeks; Colorado River legislation, several states have draft contingency plans for the management of dwindling water resources.

Navajo Water Rights Settlement Act should settle all future litigation.

Senator Romney is aware of the East Zion Initiative and the Visitor East Management Plan.

**Camille Taylor, Kane County Office of Tourism:** We are dead in the water with the North Rim season expansion. We were asking for 2 weeks extension on each end of the season.

The government shutdown impacted tourism, along with a long winter and the closure of the east Zion road. We are trying to educate the public on all that can be done on the east side of Zion without the need to drive around.

We are working with the BLM on the Wave lottery. We are fighting to keep the lottery local. Duck Creek days has been cancelled due to the weather.

Visitor center traffic is up. Looking forward to the convention center opening. We already have 10 conventions booked.

We are asking for more information on the East Zion Shuttle Study.

We have continual interest in new motels for the area. TRT is up significantly.

**Whit:** We are working on an MUO for the County to eventually take over the Wave lottery long term. Without this option we would be looking at an online lottery. Yesterday we had 192 people show up for a chance at 10 spots. There are an additional 10 spots available online.

**Vicki:** There is a study being done to evaluate the numbers for the Wave lottery. There are some wilderness laws that may come into play.

**Dave Vincelette, USDA Forest Service NKR:** Wood permits for personal use will be available May 1<sup>st</sup>, \$2 per cord, 20 cord per household.

Visitor center and campground open May 15<sup>th</sup>. Reservations are made at Recreation.gov.

Cabin rentals at Big Spring start May 10<sup>th</sup>.

Jacob Ryan Vegetation Management Project is ongoing. They have been commercial thinning with approx. two years of thinning work and four years of prescribed burning left.

Kaibab Plateau Ecological Restoration Project EA-518,000 acres; 320,000 prescribed fire with 115,000 acres noncommercial and hand thinning treatments. Draft EA will be out in August.

Burnt Corral Vegetation Management project EA- 28,000 acres thinning and fuel project. Draft EA is expected in June.

North Zone-Above average precipitation caused a delay in starting fuel treatments.

Preseason meeting for stake holders on May 21, 2019, 9:00 am at the North Kaibab Ranger District Office.

**Lou Pratt, Kane County GIS:** Engineers went and looked at the Skutumpah Road last week. They did a survey and aerial scan to determine the size of the bridge needed.

Meeting Adjourned 10:05 am